



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
Phone 406-542-5500
April 22, 2010

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to relocate western pearlshell mussels within the Blackfoot River Basin. This relocation project would mitigate the effects of channel disturbance associated with the Clearwater Fish Barrier Modification/Removal Project (a.k.a., the Emily-A dam) between Seeley Lake and Lake Inez on the Clearwater River (Missoula County) by moving mussels away from the immediate area of disturbance. The Clearwater fish barrier project is an important native fish recovery project, and mussels removed from the impact area would be used to reestablish mussel populations in restored habitat in three other tributaries to the Blackfoot River (portions of Powell and Lewis & Clark counties). The project fits within the context of Blackfoot River restoration actions undertaken over the last 20 years.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposal will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning Friday, April 30, 2010. You may view the EA at FWP's website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Recent Public Notices") or request a copy by mailing FWP, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804; phoning 406-542-5540; or emailing shrose@mt.gov.

Comments should be directed to Ron Pierce by mail at the address above; phone to 406-542-5532; or email to rpierce@mt.gov. Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on May 31, 2010.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mack Long", is written over a horizontal line.

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr